

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0420683801

Address: 400-420 Cathedral Street

Current Name: Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central Building

Block: 564 Lot: 16-26 Lot size: 300 ft. x 194 ft.

Height: 3 Materials: Limestone

Condition: Good Owner: Mayor &amp; City Council

Use: Library Accessible: Yes, unrestricted

Designation: Liber/Folio:



Historic Name:

Date: 1933

Architect/Builder: C &amp; N. Friz; Tilton &amp; Githens, consulting

Style (if appropriate): Classical Revival

**Description:** The building's three-story main elevation faces Cathedral Street and has a two-story monumental arch flanked by six-large bays on either side. The bays rise two stories and are separated by fluted pilasters. These support a blank frieze, above which is the third story. The first floor has projecting bronze-framed exhibit windows in each bay. The spandrel between the floors is ornamented by incised fretwork and topped by anthemion at the sill level of the second story. The windows on this level are casements with three lights in each. The third story windows are casements with lattice muntins. The cornice has continuous anthemion at the top of the building line and lion heads under each alternating anthemion. The entrance arch has an eagle keystone and a rosetted soffit. Bronze grillwork incorporating stylized anthemion and scrolls extends from the three entrances to the soffit of the arch. A black granite frame surrounds the central entrance. The Franklin and Mulberry Street facades each have six bays with the same treatment as the principal elevation, except the exhibit windows.

**Significance:**

Area: architecture, local history

Level: national, local

The Central Building of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is nationally significant in American library architecture as the culmination of the open plan developed by Edward L. Tilton beginning in 1912. Tilton, in conjunction with librarians and later his partner Alfred M. Githens, designed five libraries from 1912 to 1933, adapting each further until the fifth, the Pratt Central Building, which combined the principles of the preceding designs. The Pratt Central Building was the model for the Rochester, N.Y. and Toledo, Ohio public libraries and influenced the designs of many others. The Pratt Library is also locally significant as an important cultural institution in the history of Baltimore, being the public library of the city since 1882.

**Sources:** Libr. Jour. 58 (May 1, 1933); 75th Annivers. Pictorial Hist.;  
CHAP file  
**Surveyor and Date:** Janet Davis, April 1985

Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central Building  
400-420 Cathedral Street  
Public

1933

The Central Building of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is nationally significant in American library architecture as the culmination of the open plan developed by Edward L. Tilton beginning in 1912. Tilton, in conjunction with librarians and later his partner Alfred M. Githens, designed five libraries from 1912 to 1933, adapting each further until the fifth, the Pratt Central Building, which combined the principles of the preceding designs. The Pratt Central Building was the model for the Rochester, N.Y. and Toledo, Ohio public libraries and influenced the designs of many others. The Pratt Library is also locally significant as an important cultural institution in the history of Baltimore, being the public library of the city since 1882.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE   yes   x no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central Building

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 400-420 Cathedral Street

   not for publication

city, town Baltimore

   vicinity of

congressional district 3rd

state Maryland

county

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

street &amp; number 100 N. Holliday Street

telephone no.: 396-3100

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code Maryland 21202

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber

street &amp; number Calvert &amp; Fayette Streets folio

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Baltimore City Neighborhood Survey

date 1975

   federal    state    county    ☒ local

depository for survey records Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-2068

### Condition

\_\_\_ excellent  
x good  
\_\_\_ fair

\_\_\_ deteriorated  
\_\_\_ ruins  
\_\_\_ unexposed

### Check one

\_\_\_ unaltered  
x altered

### Check one

x original site  
\_\_\_ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### SUMMARY

The Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Building is a three-story limestone Classical Revival library built in 1933 and occupying the eastern half of the Cathedral Street block bounded by West Franklin and West Mulberry Streets and Park Avenue in central Baltimore, Maryland. The principal elevation faces east and a secondary entrance to the Children's Library is located on the Mulberry Street elevation. The west elevation faces Library Court, an alley, and has a service area and loading dock.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The principal elevation facing east on Cathedral Street has six large bays on each side of the monumental arched entrance. The bays rise two stories to a blank frieze visually supported by simple fluted pilasters between the bays. Above the frieze are the third story windows, regularly spaced casements with lattice muntins. The first story windows on this elevation have projecting bronze frames forming display windows. Above these are plate glass expanses with rectangular transoms with vertical muntins. Panels separating the first and second stories in each bay are decorated by incised fret designs. Above each panel is a row of large anthemion set at the sill level of the second story. On this floor, each bay has a pair of casement windows with three lights each. The cornice is emphasized by continuous anthemion at the crest of the building line and lion heads under each alternating anthemion.

The center entrance is recessed within the two-story arch, which has an eagle keystone and a soffit ornamented by rosettes in panels. The three entrance doors are framed in bronze, although the original doors themselves have been replaced with lighter weight aluminum and glass doors. The original hardware was reused on the new doors. The central doorway is outlined by a black granite frame with bronze anthemion cresting. Above all three doors and filling the entire arch opening is a bronze grille in a stylized anthemion design. Above the blank frieze is an incised panel with the name "Enoch Pratt Free Library". On either side are the seals of the City (official) and the Pratt Library (unofficial) set off by relief panels of the symbolic torch of knowledge. Above the cornice is a stepped, raised structure ornamented on the edge of the lower level with a band of carved fretwork.

The Mulberry Street and Franklin Street elevations have six bays with the same treatment as the main elevation with the exception of the projecting display windows on the first floor. The terrain slopes toward the west, raising the rear basement level to grade. At the southwest corner of the lot is a stone wall topped by iron railings enclosing a small courtyard and garden which lead to the Children's Department entrance at the exposed

(continue, please)



## 8. Significance

Survey No. B-2068

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

<b>Specific dates</b>	1933	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Clyde & Nelson Friz, archs; A.M. Githens & E.L. Tilton, consulting archs.
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### SUMMARY

The Central Building of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is nationally significant in American library architecture as the culmination of the open plan developed by Edward L. Tilton beginning in 1912. Tilton, in conjunction with librarians and later his partner Alfred M. Githens, designed five libraries from 1912 to 1933, adapting each further until the fifth, the Pratt Central Building, which combined the principles of the preceding designs. The Pratt Central Building was the model for the Rochester, N.Y. and Toledo, Ohio public libraries and influenced the designs of many others. The Pratt Library is also locally significant as an important cultural institution in the history of Baltimore, being the public library of the city since 1882.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In the mid 1860's, Enoch Pratt recognized the need for a public circulating library in Baltimore and began making plans to build and endow such an institution. By 1881, Pratt was ready to begin the building and hired Charles L. Carson to design it. Carson provided a Romanesque stone-faced structure with a series of round-arched windows and a square central tower. It was located on a rather narrow and deep lot (82 ft. by 140 ft.) on the north side of Mulberry Street, occupying the southwest corner of the present library lot. Construction was completed in 1882 and Pratt offered the building and its contents, four branches, and an endowment to the city on January 21, 1882. The city accepted the gift by a special election on October 25, 1882. The four branches were completed by 1884. They were located on Fremont Avenue, Hollins Street, Light Street, and South Ellwood Avenue. In that year, Pratt turned the management of the libraries over to a Board of Trustees. The designation "free library" was based on Pratt's insistence that his "library shall be for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color, who, when properly accredited, can take out the books if they will handle them carefully and return them."

(continue, please)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-2068

American Architect, Vol. 11 (Jan-June 1882), Feb. 4, 1882, p. 60:

Building Permit

Evening Sun, Jan. 31, 1933

Library Journal, Vol. 58, May 1, 1933, pp. 381-393 (see attachment)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Co-terminous with lot measuring 300 ft. x 194 ft.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Davis, Historical Preservation Analyst

organization Comm. for Hist. & Arch. Pres. (CHAP) date April 1985

street & number 606 Tower Suites, 118 N. Howard St. telephone 396-4866

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

basement level.

A date stone at the northeast corner of the building shows the 1882 date of the original founding of the Pratt Library and the 1931 date of the cornerstone laying of the Central Building.

The interior of the Central Building is centered on a two-story hall around which the major collections and public services are arranged. The plan was innovative in its day for the street level access and open design of the main reading rooms. Later partitions for offices in the reading rooms have not seriously undermined the open plan. Currently, a major interior alteration is underway which will provide a mezzanine in the north and south reading rooms. This will increase open stack access for the public without changing the exterior of the building.

Entering the main door of the Library, one passes the vestibule and elevator lobby to the central hall. Around the walls enclosing the hall are arranged the charging and return desks, special information areas and the catalog tables and equipment. Because of the construction work in progress, much of the formerly open central area is now occupied by readers tables and the social science collection. The central hall is built on large square piers faced with marble. These support a painted frieze incorporating the marks or coats of arms of famous printers or publishers. At the north and south ends of the hall above the frieze are murals by George Novikoff depicting Gutenberg and his printing press and William Caxton presenting his first book to his patroness, the Duchess of Burgundy. Casement windows open from the second floor into the central hall on all four sides of the space. A flat skylight covers the central hall. Directly opposite the main entrance, on the west side of the ground floor is the General Reference Room. This room features a coffered ceiling adapted from a Renaissance interior in the Vatican. Balconies at each end and across the east wall provide further stack levels and study areas.

Other murals in the building are found in the Maryland Department on the north end of the second floor. Scenes from Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queene by Lee Woodward Zeigler were painted in 1945. The original Maryland Department, now the Picture Collection, also on the second floor, had wall paintings of events in Maryland history. These paintings by Paul Roche are no longer visible, having been removed or painted over at an unknown date. The Edgar Allan Poe Room overlooks the central hall from the south end of the second floor. Paneled in walnut and originally furnished as an adult reading room and rare book room, it is now used as a small meeting room. The second floor also includes the Fine Arts section and Music Room as well as staff offices and workrooms.

The third floor has the Joseph L. Wheeler Auditorium, named for the Head Librarian from 1926 to 1945, who was largely responsible for the design of the Central Building. Other public areas on this floor are located at the north end of the building and comprise the Humanities Reference Department and the Microfilm Department. The balance of the third floor is given over to staff work areas and offices.

## Significance

History and Support, cont'd.

Page 2 of section 8

By the early 20th century, the Library had expanded into three Greek Revival rowhouses facing Cathedral Street across from the Basilica of the Assumption. In 1906, Andrew Carnegie had donated \$500,000 for 14 additional branches which were built between 1908 and 1923. The Central Library was not only the main reference location in the system but also the administrative headquarters. Built for a collection of about 200,000, the growth of the Library was demonstrated by the 400,000 volumes placed in the new Central Building upon its completion in 1933.

Property sales in 1926 in the area of the old building made it apparent that the opportunity for expansion space would soon be limited unless the city bought the land nearby. A municipal loan to acquire the land was authorized by election and the Librarian, Joseph L. Wheeler, began drawing up the program for the new building. The 1927 American Library Association meeting in Toronto was presented with a preliminary plan for comments. Suggestions from librarians from other states were received and analyzed for the next five years. Wheeler was largely responsible for the advocacy of a sidewalk level entrance and the merchandising concept of the large display windows on the first floor. The open interior plan whereby different collections on the main floor were separated by bookcase stacks instead of walls was the special forte of Edward L. Tilton and Alfred M. Githens of New York.

Tilton's first effort in designing an open plan was the City Library in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1912. The Somerville, Massachusetts Library of 1914 did away with outside windows in the stack area. In 1923, with Githens as partner, Tilton designed the Wilmington, Delaware Public Library in which the main floor became the most important level, eliminating the high basement of most libraries. This building was given an award for excellence by the American Institute of Architects. The McGregor Memorial Library in Highland Park, Michigan of about the same date as the Wilmington building was only a slight variation of the Wilmington plan.

The program and site of the new Pratt Central Building were ideal to combine the concepts of the previous buildings. The slightly sloping ground provided the opportunity for a street-level entrance, minus the grand flights of steps which had been traditional for public buildings. Wheeler's idea of display windows to entice readers into the library was also served by the ground level main floor. The main stacks were placed below the reading rooms with stairs and book elevators from each section to its particular collections, on the lower floor directly under the reference librarian's desk. This freed the main floor for reader's tables and bookcases for "live" volumes. Wheeler had originally planned a completely open main floor, but the ALA suggested walling the service area in the central hall, a change which Wheeler later acknowledged as an important improvement to control noise.

The Baltimore firm of Clyde N. and Nelson Friz was appointed the principal architects of the new building, but Wheeler and Githens both published articles at the completion and in later years which clearly indicate that Tilton and Githens were responsible for the final design. In fact, Wheeler suggests the two firms may have been at odds on certain details, citing fixed and elaborated bookcases as one example of the Frizes' failure to consult with Tilton and Githens on this point. The Board of Trustees did not recommend the Frizes

(continue, Please)



for the interior work and Wheeler, in a 1953 article in the Library Journal, states that Githens designed the exterior as well.

The Central Building was the direct model for the public libraries of Rochester New York, and Toledo, Ohio. Githens and Wheeler co-authored The American Public Library Building in 1941 which included many details of the open plan as used in the Central Building.

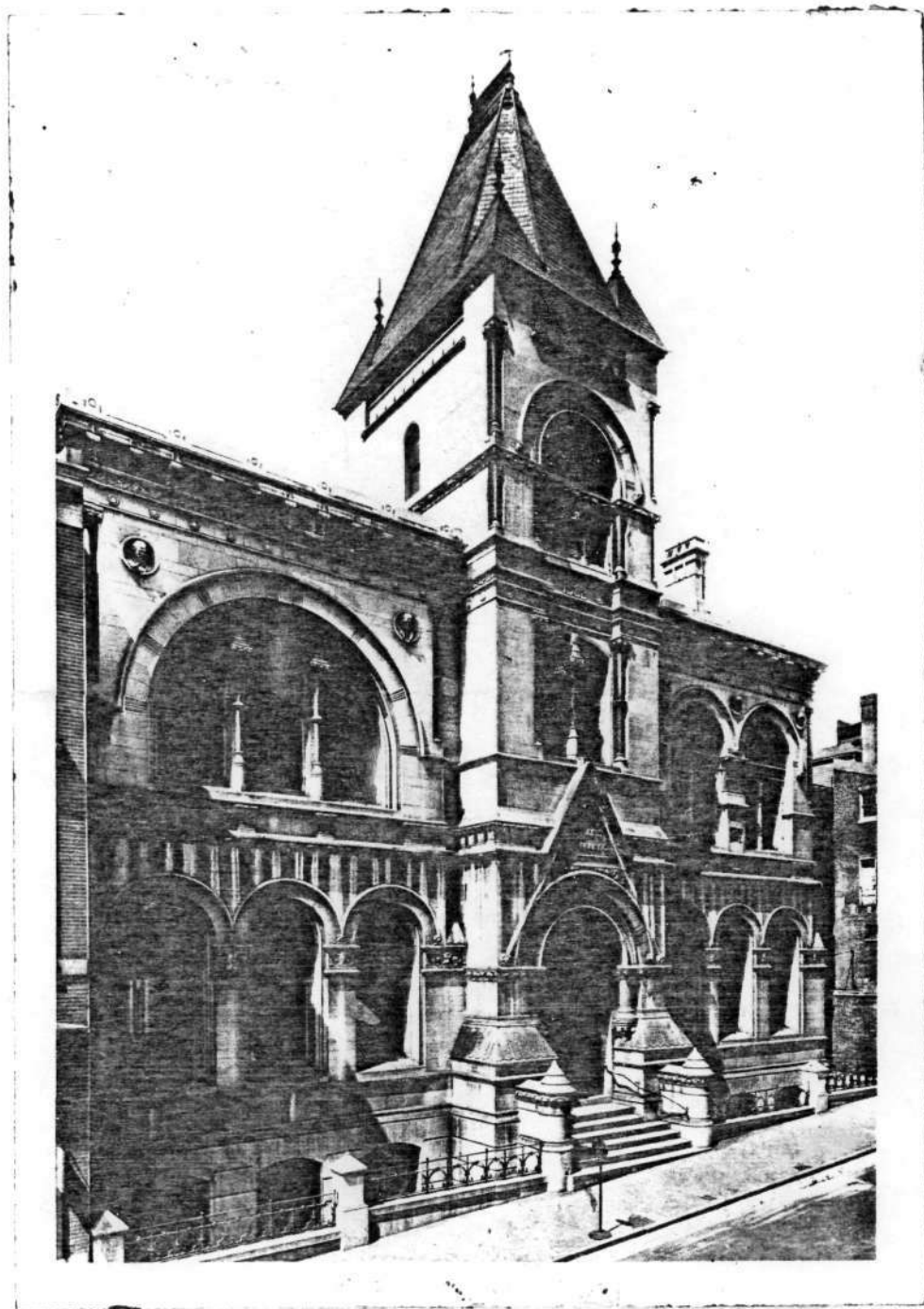
The exterior style, a streamlined Renaissance Classical style with some Grecian details, owes much to the Boston Public Library of McKim, Mead and White (1895) which set a standard for libraries and other monumental public buildings. The Pratt Central Building is also ornamented by notable metalwork influenced by the Art Deco movement of the early 20th century. The sinuous curves of the grillwork at the main entrance arch and the ventilation covers inside the building and the stylized scroll work of the interior marble pilaster bases suggest the elongated simple lines of sculpture and furniture of the period. The influence of book and magazine illustrators such as N.C. Wyeth and Maxfield Parrish may be seen in the overdoor metalwork at the Children's Department entrance. The original ceiling paintings by Paul Roche in the Children's Library are covered by a modern dropped ceiling. The present paintings and borders on the walls were done within the past 10 years. Murals by George Novikoff and Lee Woodward Zeigler decorate the Central Hall and the present Maryland Department. A series of five historic paintings of the Calvert family were acquired by Dr. Hugh Young in 1933 and donated to the Library, which bought the sixth in the group from William Randolph Hearst. These usually hang in the Central Hall, but have been removed for cleaning and safekeeping during the current remodeling.

The Pratt Library's importance as a cultural resource can not be overstated. As the public library of Maryland's largest city and only metropolitan area, it serves vast numbers of public, private, and governmental readers daily. In 1971, an act of the Maryland General Assembly designated the Pratt as the State Library Resource Center, coordinating a state-wide system of public library service such as state libraries perform in other states. The historical collections alone of the Pratt exemplify the importance of the system. The Maryland Department was moved from its original room to its present location in the 1950's to provide more expansion space.

The site of the Central Building is part of the success of the Library. Located directly across Cathedral Street from the Basilica of the Assumption and within a few blocks of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the former Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, the First Unitarian Church, the two former buildings of the YMCA, the YWCA, and the headquarters of the Odd Fellows and the Masons, both the old and new buildings of the Pratt have long occupied a prominence in the cultural life of the city. The Central Building is one of the most well-known public buildings in Baltimore and the facade is instantly recognizable by its monumental arch and exhibit windows. Aware of these advantages, the Library is currently engaged in an interior remodeling to increase space while retaining the important exterior. Areas of the open plan reading rooms on both the north and south ends of the main floor will be somewhat compromised, but the gain in available public area will hopefully offset the alteration of the original plan.

Bibliographical References, cont.d .  
Page 2 of section 9

- "The Complete Development of the Open Plan in the Enoch Pratt Library at Baltimore", A.M. Githens; "Baltimore's New Public Library Building", Pauline M. McCauley and Joseph L. Wheeler - , May 15, 1953. "Enoch Pratt Building 20 Years After", Richard Hart. Planning Problems", Joseph L. Wheeler.
- Maryland Dept., Enoch Pratt Free Library vertical file: Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central Building.
- , Photograph Collection.
- Research by Peggy B. Weissman Maryland Historical Trust, 1981:  
(Letter to Mrs. Anna Curry from J. Rodney Little)
- Seventy-fifth Anniversary Pictorial History Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1957.
- Unpublished manuscript, "Enoch Pratt Free Library (Main Building)", CHAP file (E. D. Ehle, January 1972).

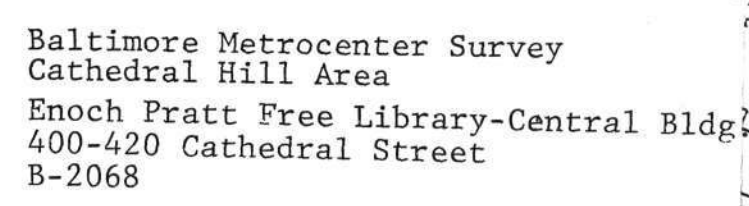


Enoch Pratt Free Library      B-2068  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Original building, Mulberry St.,  
1881  
Enoch Pratt Maryland Dept. Photo  
Collection



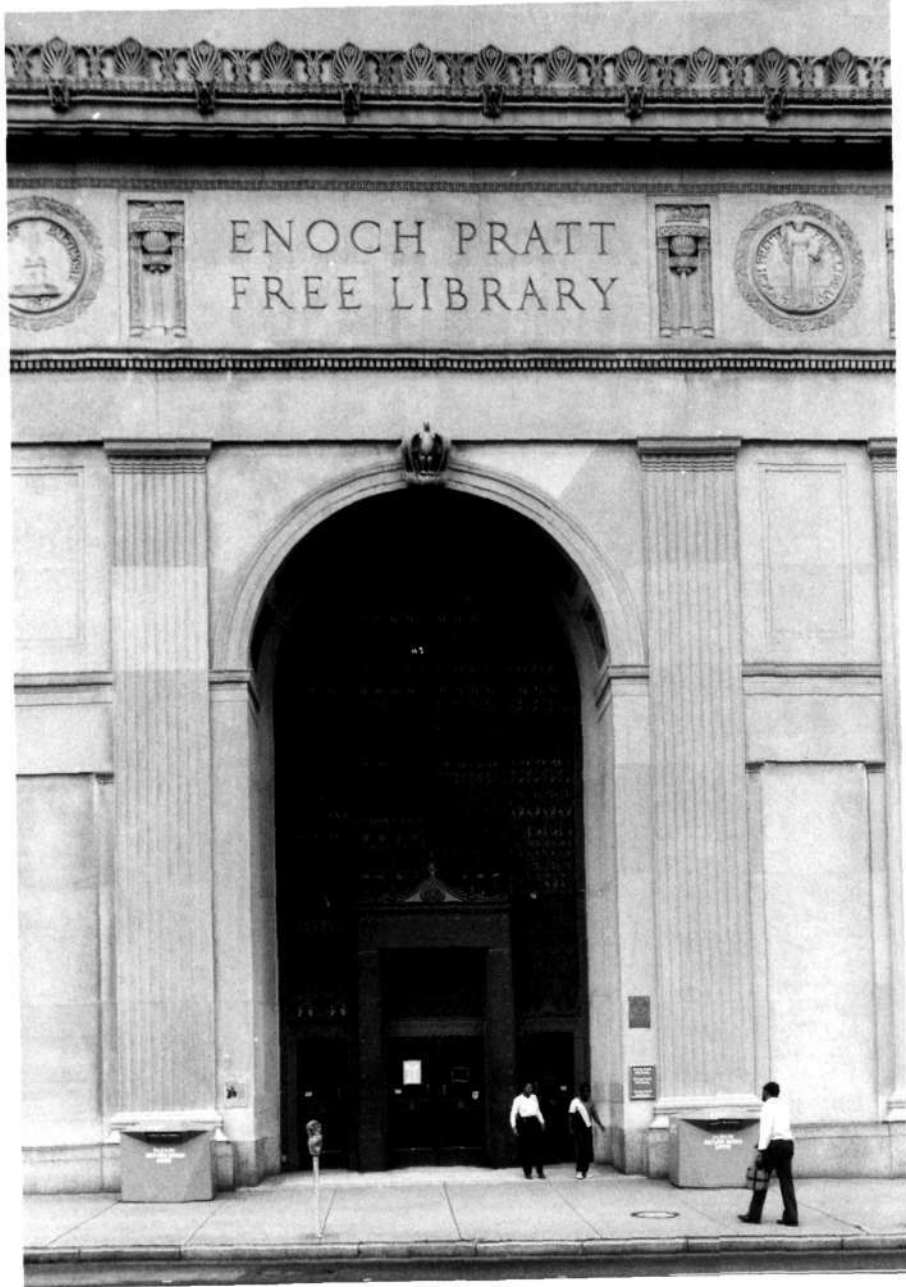
Enoch Pratt Free Library      B-2068  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Site of Central Building, ca. 1925  
Johns Hopkins University Eisenhower  
Library, Evergreen House, L.H. Fowler  
Collection







Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central  
Building B-2068  
400-420 Cathedral Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: August 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
East elevation  
1/3





Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central  
Building B-2068  
400-420 Cathedral Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: August 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Main entrance detail  
2/3



Enoch Pratt Free Library - Central  
Building B-2068  
400-420 Cathedral Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: May 1985  
Neg. loc.: CHAP  
East elevation detail

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: <u>Enoch Pratt Free Library</u>				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>400-20 Cathedral Street</u>				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Baltimore</u>				
STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: <u>Mayor and City Council</u>				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Baltimore</u>		STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <u>Courthouse Rm. 610 Land Records Office</u>				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Baltimore</u>		STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: <u>City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey</u>				
DATE OF SURVEY: <u>11/4/75</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <u>Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation</u>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Rm. 900 26 S. Calvert Street</u>				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Baltimore</u>		STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		<u>21202</u>



## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Enoch Pratt Free Library covers the area on Cathedral St. between Franklin & W. Mulberry Sts. It serves as the main branch for the Baltimore City Public Library System. The condition of the building is excellent. It has three stories plus a basement.

The front facade has thirteen bays. The center bay area contains a two-story entranceway, which is level ~~which is level~~ with the sidewalk. It is formed by a large arch which has a well-developed soffit area. In the center keystone area of the archway is a stone eagle sculptured with slightly-spread wings. The area inside this arch is decorated by elaborate metal grillwork which surrounds a much smaller (in scale) rectangular center door, flanked by two smaller doors. The lintels of the three doors are decorated with anthemions in the style used in the Parthenon.

The 12 large rectangular first-story window bays are divided into two sections. The lower section is a bay window which is used for book displays, while the upper section is divided with three panes over three. Over each first-story window there is a rectangular panel decorated with fretwork. Directly above the panels are rectangular second-story window bays, the sills of which are decorated in the same anthemion style used in the entrance. Lion heads are placed between the first and second anthemions, as well as between the third and fourth. On either side of the first- and second-story windows are giant pilasters of the Doric order. Each of the 12 rectangular second-story window bays is divided into two windows, themselves divided by a Doric pilaster. These second-story bays are approximately half the size of the first-story bays. Their stone lintels are straight. There is a continuous frieze and cornice area that runs along the entire facade directly above the second-story windows. Above the cornice is the third story, consisting of 12 smaller rectangular windows, which are divided by metal muntins. The lights of the windows are covered with metal lattice-work. Over these windows there is a large cornice which has mutules. Directly above this cornice there is a row of anthemions, of the same style as the lower anthemions. A lion head is placed below every second anthemion.

The roof is flat, with no chimneys. On the roof area over the monumental central door there is a rectangular block decorated with fretwork at the top; then there is a smaller rectangular block on it, on which a flagpole stands.

The sides of the library on Franklin and W. Mulberry Sts. are treated in the same architectural manner as the front. The back of the library has an elaborate Children's Entrance, located by a courtyard on the W. Mulberry St. side. Next to the entrance door, which has a transom decorated with a Viking ship, there is a large bay window. The large service area is beyond the Children's Entrance courtyard, and is entered by Franklin St. The major part of the back of the library is plain and made of yellow brick.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See 113 Franklin Street

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

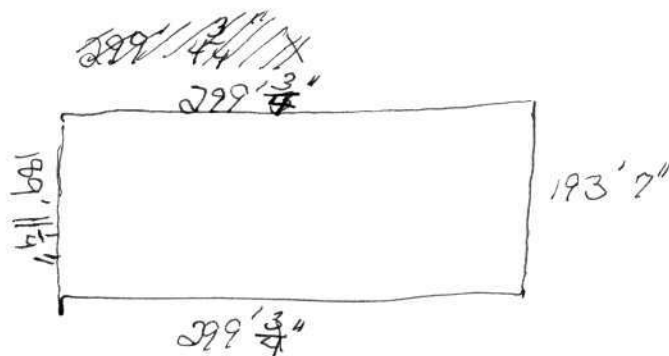
## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <del>Kate Stinson</del> Cleora Thompson		
ORGANIZATION Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation		DATE Nov. 30, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Rm. 900 26 S. Calvert Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE Maryland	21202

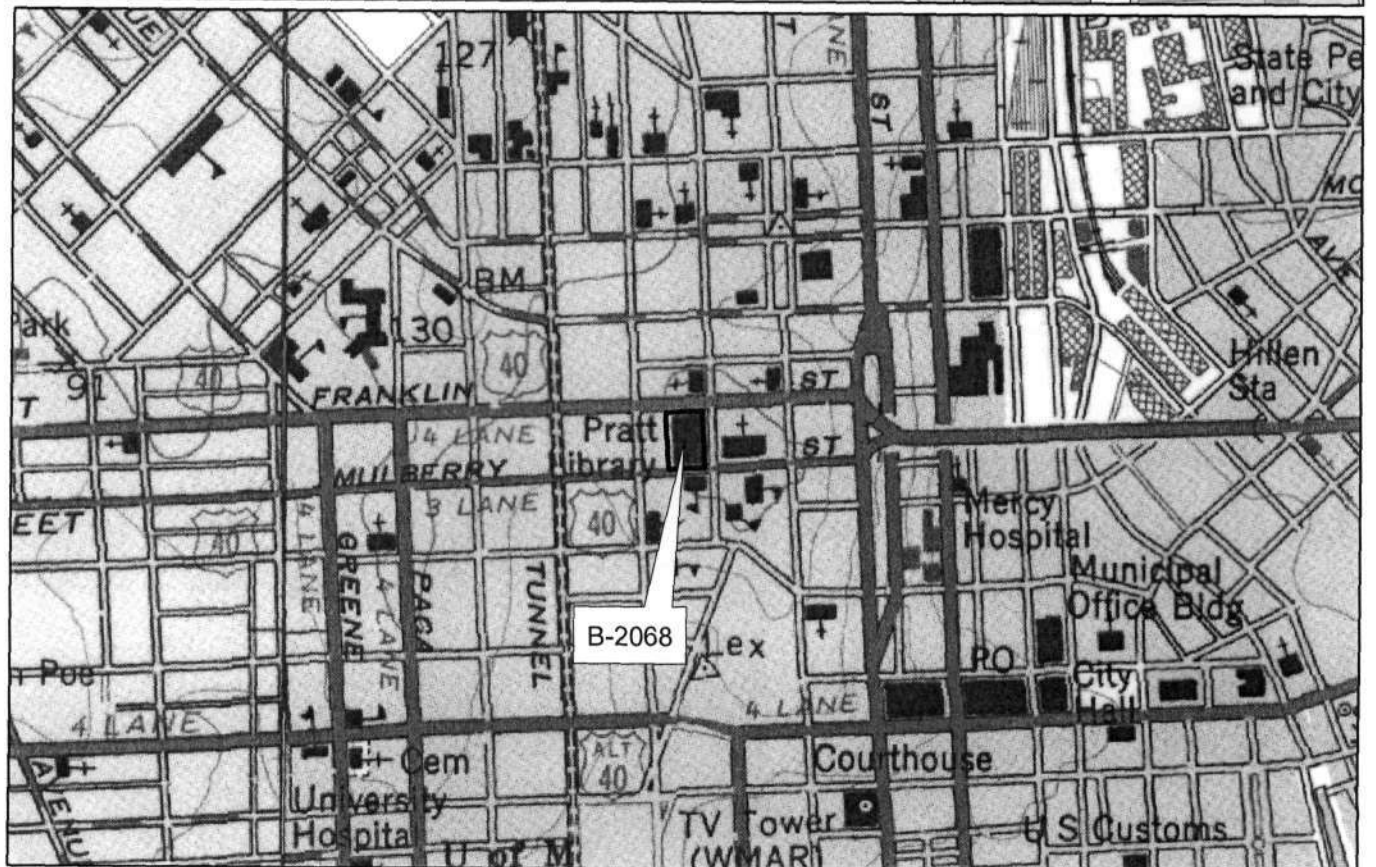
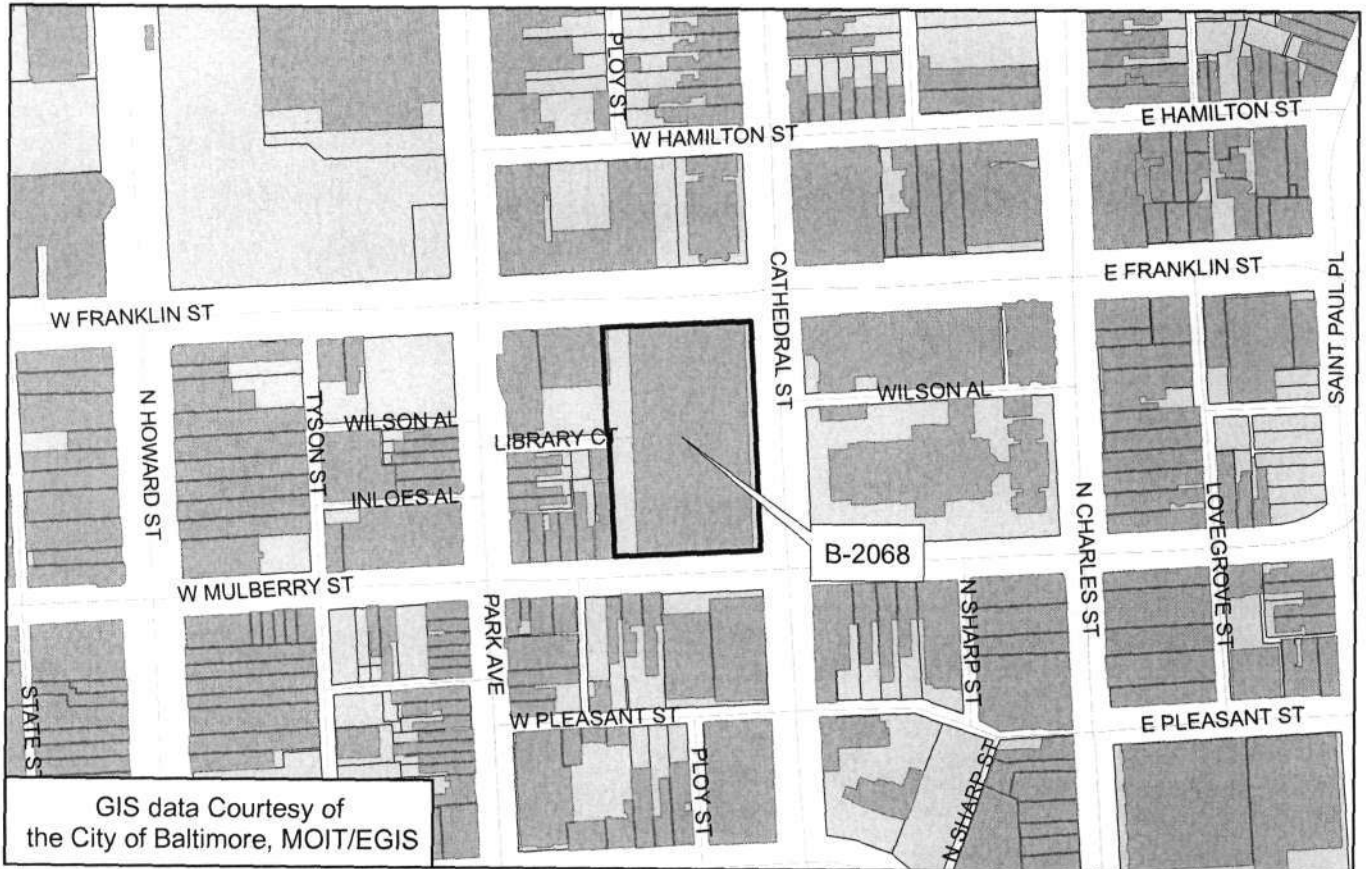
## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

B-2068  
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Building  
400-420 Cathedral Street  
Block 0564 Lot 016  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad







N.W. Corner Cathedral & W. mulberry

B-2068

BK564  
Neg 2